

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204964

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CY

SUBJECT: HANDLING CYPRUS PROBLEM AT THE UN

REF: (A) STATE 204063, (B) ANKARA 6401, (C) NICOSIA 2235

1. DEPT COUNSELOR NIMETZ CALLED IN TURKISH CHARGE AUG 26
FOR DISCUSSION OF VAROSHA ISSUE. NIMETZ SAID CYPRIOT
GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO TAKE VAROSHA ISSUE TO THE UN SECURI-
TY COUNCIL (REFTELS) AND THAT WHILE US WAS CONVINCED HIGH-
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LIGHTING THIS QUESTION IN UN FORUM WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL
AND WOULD MERELY LEAD TO HARDENING OF POSITIONS ON BOTH
SIDES, THERE WERE DISQUIETING REPORTS RECENTLY FROM NICOSIA
RAISING QUESTIONS AS TO TURKISH INTENTIONS. RECENT
STATEMENTS BY TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH WERE CLEARLY
INFLAMMATORY AND COULD EASILY LEAD GREEK CYPRIOTS TO BE-
LIEVE THAT SETTLEMENT OF VAROSHA WAS IMMINENT.

2. NIMETZ ASKED CHARGE TO PROVIDE USG WITH TURKISH POSITION WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE OF VAROSHA. THIS COULD BE DONE ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS EITHER, IF TURKS WISHED, TO ENABLE US TO APPROACH GREEK CYPRIOTS WITH REQUEST THAT THEY NOT PRESS FOR EARLY SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE OR SIMPLY FOR USG USE TO ENABLE US TO RESPOND ON TURKEY'S BEHALF DURING SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE.

3. TURKISH CHARGE SAID HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON VAROSHA AND KNEW NOTHING ABOUT GREEK CYPRIOT APPEAL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. HIS UNDERSTANDING, BASED ON CABLE TRAFFIC HE HAD READ FROM ANKARA IN LAST MONTH, WAS THAT NEITHER THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT NOR TURKISH CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES PLANNED TO OPEN VAROSHA FOR SETTLEMENT. BECAUSE ISSUE HAD BECOME SO DELICATELY INTERWOVEN WITH DOMESTIC TURKISH POLITICS, TURKISH GOVERNMENT WAS RELUCTANT TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT WAS DOING ITS BEST TO CALM SITUATION QUIETLY.

4. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD SEND AN IMMEDIATE CABLE TO ANKARA AND PROVIDE US WITH THE LATEST TURKISH GOVERNMENT POSITION ON THIS MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE THOUGHT THE LATEST GREEK CYPRIOT MOVE WAS NO MORE THAN AN INDICATION THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN NICOSIA WISHED TO HIGHLIGHT THE CYPRUS PROBLEM INTERNATIONALLY IN A WAY CONFIDENTIAL

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WHICH WOULD DEMONSTRATE TO THE GREEK CYPRIOT PEOPLE THAT THE SUCCESSORS OF MAKARIOS WERE AT LEAST AS VIGILANT AS THE ARCHBISHOP. THE MOVE ALSO SEEMED, IN THE TURKISH CHARGE'S VIEW, EVIDENCE THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE ANXIOUS FOR PROPAGANDA AND NOT SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE THE CYPRIOT ISSUE.

5. THE TURKISH CHARGE THEN TURNED TO DISCUSS THE HANDLING OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS, HE SAID THAT TURKEY HOPED TO WIN US SUPPORT TO HAVE THE CYPRUS AGENDA ITEM CONSIDERED FIRST IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE, WHERE BOTH COMMUNITIES WOULD BE ON EQUAL FOOTING. GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONSIDERATION OF CYPRUS WOULD FOLLOW RATHER THAN PRECEDE COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS, THE REVERSE OF THE PRACTICE IN PREVIOUS YEARS. THE TURKISH CHARGE SAID THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD BE MUCH MORE EQUITABLE.

6. NIMETZ SAID THE USG WOULD CONSIDER THE TURKISH POSITION IN DETERMINING HOW TO ACT WHEN THE GENERAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERS THE CYPRUS ISSUE IN SEPTEMBER. HE EXPRESSED AWARENESS THAT IN 1976 THE US HAD ABSTAINED ON THE QUES-

TION OF HOW THE CYPRUS ISSUE WOULD BE HANDLED. WE INTENDED TO REVIEW THIS MATTER BEFORE REACHING A DECISION THIS YEAR. NIMETZ NOTED THAT OUR OBJECTIVE WAS TO KEEP THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION OF CYPRUS AS LOW KEY AS POSSIBLE. SUCH A COURSE WOULD BE FACILITATED BY HAVING SUBSTANTIVE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN PROGRESS. THIS HAD NOT PROVEN POSSIBLE IN THE FALL OF 1976; THIS YEAR AGAIN THE TALKS WERE IN RECESS. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DAMPEN THE DEBATE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

IN THIS CONNECTION, NIMETZ NOTED THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR HAD RECENTLY REAFFIRMED HIS COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT FOR THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS (NICOSIA 2241) AND HIS READINESS TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. A SIMILAR
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REAFFIRMATION BY THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY IN THE WEEKS AHEAD WOULD CERTAINLY BE WELCOME AND WOULD HELP CONVINCE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF THE SINCERITY OF TURKEY'S WISH TO HAVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM RESOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

7. THE TURKISH CHARGE SAID HE HOPED TO BE IN A POSITION TO RESPOND TO US REQUEST OUTLINED IN PARA 2 ABOVE OVER THE WEEKEND. CHRISTOPHER

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